

**REMARKS**

The Official Action mailed November 27, 2009, has been received and its contents carefully noted. This response is filed within three months of the mailing date of the Official Action and therefore is believed to be timely without extension of time. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that this response is being timely filed.

The Applicant notes with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement filed on March 31, 2006.

Claims 1-4, 7-18 and 22-27 were pending in the present application prior to the above amendment. The Applicant notes with appreciation the indication of the allowance of claims 22-24. Paragraph 4 of the Official Action rejects claims 1, 3 and 25 as anticipated by JP 08-107345 to Hiroyoshi. Paragraph 6 of the Official Action rejects claims 2, 4, 26 and 27 as obvious based on the combination of Hiroyoshi and U.S. Patent No. 6,646,486 to Uchiki. In response, claims 1-4, 26 and 27 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer; therefore, these rejections are now moot. Dependent claim 25 has been amended to solely depend on allowed independent claim 22. Accordingly, claims 7-18 and 22-25 are now pending in the present application, of which claims 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17 and 22 are independent. Claims 7-18 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. Accordingly, claims 22-25 are currently elected, of which claim 22 is independent, and all of which are believed to be in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17, 1.20(a), 1.20(b), 1.20(c), and 1.20(d) (except the Issue Fee) which may be required now or hereafter, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2280.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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